**From:** mentalhealth-l-bounces@lists.ucla.edu [mailto:mentalhealth-l-bounces@lists.ucla.edu] **On Behalf Of** Adelman, Howard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 4:55 PM  
**To:** Mentalhealth-L@lists.ucla.edu  
**Subject:** [mentalhealth-l] Policy alert about the President's Plan for making schools safer – from Center at UCLA

***POLICY ALERT* – from the Center at UCLA**

**Click on URL to see: School Improvement Implications of the President’s Plan for Making Schools Safer and Increasing Access to Mental Health**

**<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/presplan.pdf>**

Abstract: The focus of the President’s plan with respect to school safety and mental health in schools is welcome. But, as always, making the resources pay the greatest dividends for students and schools remains a significant challenge. Past trends suggest that, in the rush to pursue new dollars, staff and programs will be added in an ad hoc and piecemeal manner. This will further fragment efforts to improve how schools address learning, behavior, and emotional problems. Moreover, as concerned critics are pointing out, some of what is proposed for schools will perpetuate questionable policies and practices and can interfere with critical efforts related to accomplishing the substantive school improvements necessary if schools are to achieve their mission. Such unintended negative consequences are predictable and preventable.

Instead of introducing more of the same, the opportunity for schools is to *systematically embed* new proposals for school safety and mental health into efforts designed to unify and enhance existing student and learning supports. By recognizing the need for flexibility, the President’s plan, when combined with other federal policies calling for flexibility and innovation, opens up the feasibility of addressing a wide range of barriers to learning and teaching and strengthening school improvement policy and practices.

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**send an email to** [**smhp@ucla.edu**](mailto:smhp@ucla.edu)